

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lummis	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	Young

#### NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	
Hagerty	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Luján	Rounds
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington,

to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 705, Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Maria Cantwell, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Thomas R. Carper, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, February 8, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Financing being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Sam Bagenstos to be General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to discharge be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, notwithstanding rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have had so much good news in Ohio and across the country over the last few weeks—rising wages, record job growth, a million jobs in 2 months.

Intel is bringing 10,000 new good-paying manufacturing and trades jobs to Central Ohio. That facility will be built by union workers—electricians, carpenters, laborers, pipefitters, and other workers of the skilled trades.

Hyperion, a fuel manufacturer, is opening the largest factory built in Columbus in a decade, creating 700 jobs.

GE Aviation with Boeing signed a new deal exporting planes built with

next-generation jet engines developed in Southwest Ohio, supporting thousands of Ohio jobs.

As I was flying into Columbus with Senator PORTMAN a couple of weeks ago to join Intel to announce those jobs, I was thinking: Today we are finally burying the term “rust belt.”

For too long, corporate elites on the coast have used that outdated, offensive term—a term that demeans our workers and devalues our work. Now Ohio—the center of the country, the heart of the industrial Midwest—leads the way in the next generation of manufacturing.

The State that founded the auto industry and gave us the Wright Brothers is today making the most advanced chips that go into cars and phones and appliances.

All of this is made possible because we are putting American workers at the center of our economy. It is not a coincidence we are seeing this record job growth, when we finally have a President who understands what carrying a union card means, who centers workers, who cares about wages, who comes from the industrial heartland—a union card that means better wages, a union card that means better benefits, a union card that often means a more flexible work schedule that workers have a decision and input into forming.

And look at the results we are getting. Last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy grew faster than China. Think about that. For the first time in two decades, the American economy grew faster than China's economy.

We know that China and other competitors aren't giving up. They are, every week, trying to find new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs.

We need every possible tool to compete. It is why last year in the Senate we passed the Innovation and Competition Act. We passed what we are now calling the Make it in America Act. It is a serious effort to invest in manufacturing research and development and bring and build supply chains back in the United States.

It is going to mean jobs. It is going to bring down prices. For too long, we have had a trade policy and a tax policy lobbied in this body by corporate interests that wanted to move overseas for cheap labor. We have had a trade and tax policy that essentially hollowed out manufacturing in Ohio and across the Midwest. Ohioans know what permanent normal trade relations with China 20 years ago when Congress passed it—to be asked of corporate America and pushed by people like Newt Gingrich—people know what that did to our economy. Almost everyone knows the devastation the North American Free Trade Agreement caused to industrial towns in Ohio and across the country.

PNTR and admitting China to the WTO hasn't gotten the same media attention, but Ohio steel companies and